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DRUG DEALERS NEAR CLOVIS WEST HIGH SCHOOL **ENTER GUILTY PLEAS**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GABRIEL JEDIDIAH SCHOENSTEIN, 31, and MICHELLE KEVORKIAN, 26, both of Fresno entered guilty pleas in federal court yesterday to drug charges stemming from their involvement in a drug operation from their residence near Clovis West High School and Fort Washington Elementary School. SCHOENSTEIN pled guilty to possessing with intent to distribute 36 kilograms or 79 pounds of marijuana within 1,000 feet of a secondary school, in violation of federal law. His girlfriend, KEVORKIAN, entered a guilty plea to possessing about three pounds of marijuana at her residence, where she resided with SCHOENSTEIN at the time of the offenses. She also admitted that her residence was used to facilitate drug trafficking crimes and has agreed to the forfeiture of her residence.

The defendant's involvement in drug trafficking was uncovered during the investigation of OSCAR ROSALES, 41, of Fresno, the owner of a stereo/direct tv business, Exclusive Sounds, at 4376 W. Shaw Avenue, by the Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF), a federally-funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative (HIDTA). The FMTF consists of multiple federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Fresno Police Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department, Merced County Sheriff's Department, and California Highway Patrol and assisted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). ROSALES, 41, of Fresno had entered a guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute at least 1,000 kilograms of marijuana throughout the country. His sentencing is set before United States District Judge Oliver Wanger on August 22.

According to court documents, SCHOENSTEIN possessed with intent to distribute about 79 pounds of marijuana over a seven month period from February to August, 2005, while he resided with KEVORKIAN at her Millbrook residence. During that time, he sold pound quantities of marijuana to ROSALES at Exclusive Sounds. His suppliers included DAVID LEE CROSSLEY, 34, of Fresno, who obtained marijuana from cultivators in Mendocino County. CROSSLEY was sentenced to 13 months in prison on May 2, 2007, for conspiring to manufacture or cultivate, to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute. In addition, court

documents indicate that SCHOENSTEIN obtained high grade marijuana from WILLIAM WHITE, 34, of North Fork, who was sentenced to 84 months in prison on July 6, 2007, for conspiracy to manufacture, to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who is prosecuting the case, SCHOENSTEIN faces five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute near a secondary school. KEVORKIAN faces one year in prison and a fine of \$1,000. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. They are scheduled for sentencing before United States District Judge Wanger on September 24, 2007.

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